



**REQUEST  
 FOR  
 CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
 TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/111,731                |
| Filing Date            | July 8, 1998              |
| First Named Inventor   | YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA et al. |
| Group Art Unit         | 2672                      |
| Examiner Name          | J. A. Brier               |
| Attorney Docket Number | 03500.012836              |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a.  Previously submitted

i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on JUN 1 8 2004  
 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Enclosed

i.  Preliminary Amendment with Transmittal therefor 06/16/2004 CCHAU1 00000176 09111731

ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) 02 FC:1251 110.00 CP

iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**JUN 1 8 2004**  
 Technology Center 2600

2. **Miscellaneous**

a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b.  Other Applicants petition the Examiner to extend the time for response to the Final Office Action dated February 12, 2004, one month from May 12, 2004, up to and including June 14, 2004, and submits \$110.00.

3. **Fees**

a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 06/16/2004 CCHAU1 00000176 09111731

i.  RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) 01 FC:1801 770.00 CP

ii.  Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Checks in the amount of \$ 770.00 (for the RCE filing fee), and \$110.00 (for the extension of time fee) are enclosed.

c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

|                   |                  |                                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Michael J. Dudas | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 55,112                 |
| Signature         |                  | Date                              | June 14, 2004 (Monday) |

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Name (Print/Type) |  |
| Signature         |  |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Director of the U.S.P.T.O., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.  
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